

Message Text

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44

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 FAA-00 DOTE-00 SS-20 NSC-10 SCEM-02 SCI-06

INT-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00 PA-04 PRS-01 L-03 H-03 CIEP-02

DRC-01 /132 W

----- 002840

O R 141509Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6989

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, XX, PL

SUBJECT: CIVAIR - FUEL SHORTAGE

REF: (A) STATE 244257; (B) STATE 244460

1. SUMMARY. POLISH MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS HAS INFORMED EMBASSY THAT IF CURRENT EFFORTS OF LOT TO FIND ADEQUATE SUPPLY OF FUEL AT NEW YORK ARE UNSUCCESSFUL, GOP WILL BE FORCED TO CUT OFF PANAMERICAN'S FUEL SUPPLY AT WARSAW. DEPARTMENT'S EFFORTS TO ALLEVIATE SITUATION ARE REQUESTED. END SUMMARY.

2. DRAWING ON REFTELS, EMBASSY OFFICER DISCUSSED LOT'S AVIATION FUEL PROBLEM AT NEW YORK WITH MFA ECONOMIC
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ADVISOR CHOWANIEC ON DECEMBER 14. CHOWANIEC SAID THAT UP

TO NOW, BASED ON NOVEMBER 19TH LETTER FROM CHEVRON AND INFORMATION RECEIVED BY POLISH EMBASSY FROM DEPARTMENT, THEY HAD UNDERSTOOD US FEDERAL AUTHORITIES WOULD TAKE NECESSARY STEPS TO ALLOCATE AVIATION FUEL TO THOSE DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL CARRIERS FACING PARTICULAR HARDSHIPS. HE READ FROM CHEVRON'S LETTER, WHICH SUGGESTS THAT IF LOT APPEAL TO INTERIOR DEPARTMENT WERE FOUND VALID, US OIL COMPANY WOULD BE INSTRUCTED TO SUPPLY LOT.

3. CHOWANIEC SAID THAT IN LIGHT OF MOST RECENT INFORMATION, HOWEVER, IT APPEARED THAT CARRIERS USING BONDED FUEL WERE VIRTUALLY HELPLESS. LOT WAS IN SERIOUS NEED OF FUEL TO BE ABLE TO CONTINUE TRANS-ATLANTIC SERVICE. TO LOT AT THIS POINT IT WOULD NOT MATTER WHETHER FUEL WAS BONDED OR DOMESTIC.

4. EMBASSY OFFICER POINTED OUT THAT OTHER INTERNATIONAL CARRIERS SUCH AS PANAM, LUFTHANSA, AND OTHERS WERE ALSO EXPECTING SHARP REDUCTION IN SUPPLIES AT NEW YORK, AND THAT PANAM HAD ALREADY ANNOUNCED SUBSTANTIAL STAFF LAY-OFFS. HE URGED THAT LOT SEEK ADDITIONAL BONDED SUPPLIES FROM CHEVRON AND OTHER SUPPLIERS.

5. WHILE ACKNOWLEDGING THAT IT DID NOT SEEM LOT WAS BEING DISCRIMINATED AGAINST VIS-A-VIS OTHER USERS OF BONDED FUEL, CHOWANIEC SAID IT APPEARED VERY UNLIKELY UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES THAT LOT WOULD BE ABLE TO GET SUFFICIENT BONDED SUPPLIES TO CONTINUE SERVICE TO AND FROM NEW YORK. IN SUCH A CASE, HE SAID, POLISH AUTHORITIES WOULD HAVE TO RESORT TO "RECIPROCAL MEASURES" WHICH, AT A MINIMUM, WOULD BE TO CUT OFF PANAM'S FUEL SUPPLY AT WARSAW.

6. CHOWANIEC AGREED THAT CUT OFF OF PANAM WOULD BE REGRETTABLE STEP, BUT INDICATE THERE WAS GROWING PRESSURE FOR SUCH A MOVE IF LOT COULD NOT LOCATE OTHER SUPPLIERS AND IF US GOVERNMENT WERE UNABLE TO HELP.

7 DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO NOTIFY PANAM HEADQUARTERS OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GOP'S THREATENED ACTION. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT DEPARTMENT DO WHATEVER MAY BE POSSIBLE TO (A) PROVIDE SOME SHORT-TERM RELIEF FOR LOT AND (B) SEE THAT DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL CARRIERS ARE TREATED ON ZUUQ BASIS. (POLES MAY CONTACT EXXON AND OTHER SUPPLIERS IN BETTER POSITION THAN CHEVROFQN BUT ANY FACILITATIVE STEPS DEPARTMENT COULD TAKE IN THIS REGARD WOULD BE APPRECIATED.) DAVIS

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